

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 14, line 5 as follows.

21 --Fig. 7 is a flow chart showing the processing in such case. This processing is executed when it is determined in step S505 in Fig. 5 that the speech segment of interest is not used in learning of the corresponding HMM. The flow advances to step S601 to search the allowable table (provided to the registration segment determination unit 407). At step S602, it is checked ~~so as to check~~ if the diphone of the recognition result is found in that table. If it is found at step S602, the flow advances to step S506 in Fig. 5 to register that speech segment in the segment dictionary 206; otherwise, the flow advances to step S507 not to register that segment in the segment dictionary 206.